

Message Text

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SUBJECT: RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAELI CONSULATE GENERAL AND
AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

1. THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF PRESS ARTICLES
RECENTLY ON ALLEGED ILL FEELING BETWEEN THE ISRAELI
CONSULATE GENERAL IN NEW YORK AND AMERICAN JEWISH
ORGANIZATIONS. THE SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED DURING THE
AUGUST 22 CABINET MEETING AND THE FOLLOWING EXTRACT
FROM THE COMMUNIQUE REPORTS ON THAT DISCUSSION.

2. BEGIN TEXT. AT THE PREVIOUS CABINET SESSION,
FROM WHICH THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAD BEEN ABSENT, MINISTER BURG
HAD ASKED A QUESTION CONCERNING RELATIONS
BETWEEN ISRAEL'S CONSUL-GENERAL IN NEW YORK AND THE
MAJOR (US) JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE CENTERS WERE
LOCATED IN NEW YORK. THE FOREIGN MINISTER (AT CURRENT SESSION)
REPLIED THAT EVER SINCE PUBLICATION OF THE ISSUE IN
THE ISRAELI PRESS AND IN THE US JEWISH PRESS, HE HAD
RECEIVED LETTERS AND CABLES FROM US JEWISH LEADERS
PRAISING THE SYSTEM OF RELATIONS AND THE COOPERATION
BETWEEN THE CONSUL-GENERAL AND THEIR ORGANIZATIONS.
THE PRESIDENT OF HADASSAH, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
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JEWISH AGENCY'S AMERICAN BRANCH, THE EXECUTIVE

OF THE ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA, THE
PRESIDENTS OF BNAI BRITH AND OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH
CONGRESS, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ANTI-DEFAMATION
LEAGUE AND THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION
OF REFORM RABBIS -- HAD ALL EXPRESSED THEMSELVES IN
THIS SPIRIT. ISRAEL'S AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON HAD
ALSO EXPRESSED HIMSELF MOST POSITIVELY CONCERNING
THE CONSUL-GENERAL'S WORK. SUBSCRIBING TO THE
LAUDATORY COMMENT, THE FOREIGN MINISTER STATED THAT
HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE CONSUL'S WORK. IT WAS TRUE
THAT ON A SPECIFIC LIMITED SUBJECT, DIFFERENCES OF
OPINION HAD MANIFESTED THEMSELVES BETWEEN THE
CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS (OF MAJOR US
JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS), RABBI SCHINDLER, AND CONSUL-
GENERAL BEN-ARI -- BUT NO FORMAL COMPLAINT AGAINST
MR. BEN-ARI HAD BEEN RECEIVED, AND RABBI SCHINDLER HAD
PUBLICLY PRAISED THE PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH MR. BEN-
ARI. MINISTER BURG -- WHO, AS AFOREMENTIONED, HAD
RAISED THIS SUBJECT IN THE FORM OF A QUESTION AT
THE PREVIOUS CABINET SESSION -- REMARKED THAT HE,
TOO, HAD RECEIVED A LETTER AND A CABLE FROM MEMBERS
OF THE US MIZRAHI MOVEMENT, IN PRAISE OF THE GOOD
WORKING RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL'S CONSUL-GENERAL IN
NEW YORK. END TEXT.
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